Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance
New York City
Best of Both Worlds

The Ailey School and Fordham University are partners in an innovative Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Program in Dance Performance. The BFA program offers the artistic preeminence of the official school of the world-famous Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, coupled with an exceptional liberal arts education rooted in the Jesuit tradition of academic excellence. Both institutions are located in New York City’s Lincoln Center area, the epicenter of the dance world.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Melanie Person, Artist-in-Residence, Fordham University Co-Director, The Ailey School

PROGRAM CO-DIRECTOR
Edward Bristow, Ph.D., Professor of History, Fordham University
About the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program

The Ailey/Fordham BFA Program is a highly selective, intensive four-year program, designed to prepare students for a global dance world. Its diverse curriculum, based upon rigorous academic and professional standards, develops accomplished dance technicians, performance artists, and critical thinkers. Students have the unique opportunity to experience an artistic education within the context of the humanist traditions and commitment to social justice shared by both organizations. Ailey/Fordham BFA candidates are full-time students at both institutions.

At The Ailey School, BFA students are part of the Professional Division and undertake a broad curriculum of dance techniques. They become equally proficient in modern dance and ballet, as well as strongly grounded in West African, jazz, and other techniques. In addition to developing their choreographic skills, students take several yearlong, dance-related academic courses, including anatomy and kinesiology, music for dancers, and dance history. Throughout their four years, BFA students have many opportunities to learn from and perform varied repertory with renowned faculty and guest artists from The Ailey School. They perform at The Ailey Citigroup Theater, Fordham University’s Pope Auditorium and, in their senior year, other venues in the greater New York City area. At the completion of the bachelor’s degree program, The Ailey School and Fordham University present their students in a fully produced performance.

At Fordham College at Lincoln Center, students receive a strong liberal arts foundation, creating the breadth of knowledge that marks the educated person. Taught by Fordham’s distinguished arts and sciences faculty, the curriculum includes courses in the arts, social sciences, literature, philosophy, theology, history, and modern and classical languages. There are also opportunities to take academic electives and to have an academic minor.

Visit www.fordham.edu/admission for further details.
The Ailey/Fordham BFA program offers its most advanced students the unique opportunity to dance professionally while earning credit toward their degree. Seniors (and occasionally juniors) with outstanding dance and academic records may dance with professional companies as apprentices or members with the approval of the BFA director.

About 80 percent of current Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members studied at The Ailey School. Other graduates have entered the dance profession and joined companies, including: Ailey II, Alonzo King’s Lines Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Parsons Dance Company, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Elisa Monte Dance Company, Frankfurt Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Kansas City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Morphoses, Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, Nederlands Dans Theater, North Carolina Dance Theatre II, Peridance, and Philadanco, among others. Graduates have also performed on Broadway.
During freshman orientation, Ailey/Fordham BFA students take placement classes in classical ballet and the Lester Horton technique. Placement classes enable each student to pursue an individualized dance technique schedule that is consistent with his or her level of training. In addition to academic courses, students take 14 to 17 dance technique and creative classes weekly. Students take daily ballet classes as well as daily classes in either Horton or Graham-based modern. Women also take a minimum of four semesters of pointe technique and men take at least four semesters of men’s ballet. Intermediate and advanced students take ballet partnering and modern partnering as well.
## Sample BFA Schedule

### YEAR 1

**TERM 1**
- Ballet
- Horton
- Body Conditioning, Yoga, Barre a Terre or Gyrokinesis®
- Improvisation
- Pointe or Men’s Ballet
- Anatomy and Kinesiology
- English Composition and Rhetoric
- Understanding Historical Change

### YEAR 2

**TERM 1**
- Ballet
- Horton
- Graham-based Modern
- Pointe or Men’s Ballet
- Jazz
- Ballet Partnering
- Dance Composition I
- Music for Dancers I
- Faith and Critical Reason

**TERM 2**
- Ballet
- Horton
- Graham-based Modern
- Pointe or Men’s Ballet
- Jazz
- Dance Composition II
- Music for Dancers II
- Liberal Arts Elective
- Philosophy of Human Nature

### YEAR 3

**TERM 1**
- Ballet
- Horton
- Graham-based Modern
- Repertory Workshops I
- Dance Composition III
- World Dance History
- Foreign Language

**TERM 2**
- Ballet
- Horton
- Graham-based Modern
- Repertory Workshops II
- Dance Composition IV
- Modern Partnering
- Black Traditions in American Dance
- Performance and Art
- Advanced Disciplinary Study

### YEAR 4

**TERM 1**
- Ballet
- Horton
- Graham-based Modern
- Limon or Taylor
- Senior Project in Performance I
- Senior Seminar
- Dance Methodology
- Capstone Ethics Seminar

**TERM 2**
- Ballet
- Horton
- Graham-based Modern
- Limon or Taylor
- Independent Study in Choreography (optional)
- Senior Project in Performance II
- Liberal Arts Elective
Prospective students must submit separate applications to both The Ailey School and Fordham University to be considered for admission.

The BFA Dance Application requests detailed information about the applicant’s dance training, two photographs, and an essay about the applicant’s professional goals.

The Fordham University Common Application is the undergraduate academic application for Fordham College at Lincoln Center. The application requests information about the applicant’s academic background and requires an essay, the submission of SAT or ACT test scores, transcripts, and a recommendation from a school counselor.

www.theaileyschool.edu/BFA
www.fordham.edu/admission
The Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance

Fordham University Office of Undergraduate Admission
113 West 60th Street
New York, NY 10023
(800) FORDHAM / (212) 636-6710
www.fordham.edu/BFA

The Ailey School
405 West 55th Street
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(212) 405-9124
www.TheAileySchool.edu/BFA

Students from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program. All photos by Eduardo Patino, NYC except where indicated.
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